(b) what are the details of cases where prosecution was launched under DPCO, 1987;

(c) in how many cases of overcharging the amounts have been recovered under DPCO, 1987;

(d) what is the amount calculated in each case and what is the amount recovered so far from each;

(e) what is the position of remaining cases at present;

(f) whether his Ministry are taking any steps to make price control more effective; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The requisite information has been furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 86 answered on 13-8-1990.

(b) While no prosecution against any company on overcharging has been launched under DPCO, 1987 so far, suitable action is now being taken and it has been decided to give the defaulter companies a final hearing before launching prosecution a ainst them.

(c) No amount has been recovered on overcharging under DPCO, 1987 so far.

(d) and (e) The requisite information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The present drug Policy is under review to ensure easy and abundant availability of medicines to the consumers at reasonable and fair prices.

Study on Trade Commission relating to Drug Industry

1359. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has assured the drug industry that Trade Commission would not be reduced;

(b) whether it is a fact that in giving this assurance he has sacrificed the interest of the consumer;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no basis for the existing Trade Commission and it is not based on study of actual costs;

(d) whether it is a fact that trade is getting free schemes, gifts etc. apart from the commission;

(e) if so, what is the normal percentage the trade gets on such practices;

(f) whether it is a fact that his Ministry decided to get the study conducted on trade commission by BICP before taking a final decision; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The industry and trade were told that the disinformation regarding reduction in trade margin etc. wa sbaseless and the Government had taken no such decisions.

(c) The existing Trade Margin is based on the decision taken by the Govt. in the light of recommendations made by the Committee constituted for the purpose under the chairmanship of the Chairman BICP.

(d) and (e) Promotional Expenses etc. are not monitored by this Department. However, these expenses are required to be met out of MAPE.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.